



Lower Wolf River Bottomlands

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

June, 2000



Pre-Meeting Materials for June 19, 2000

As proposed in our April Newsletter, the planning team drafted, with the assistance of some interested planning participants, a vision, goals, and criteria for identifying conservation and recreational opportunities within the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Study Area. On Monday, June 19th, from 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm at the Ellington Town Hall we will be hosting a facilitated meeting to review, discuss, and further refine these drafts. This will be a

working meeting in small groups; not a informational or hearing meeting. The pre-meeting materials included in this mailing are the draft vision, goals, and criteria, instructions for reviewing these drafts, and a map of the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Study Area.

We hope that providing these materials to you prior to the meeting, will help prepare you and facilitate a more efficient and effective meeting. Also, if you can not attend on

June 19th, this will provide you will an opportunity review the materials and offer comments prior to the meeting. But we encourage folks to attend, so that you will be able to share your views and hear others.

Please send comments or questions to Attn: Jill Mrotek, 1125 N. Military Ave, Green Bay, WI 54307 or 920/492-5830 or mrotej@dnr.state.wi.us

Instructions for Reviewing Draft Vision, Goals, and Criteria for Identifying Conservation and Recreational Opportunities within the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Study Area

As you review the draft vision, goals, and criteria for identifying conservation and recreational opportunities within the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands, please keep in mind the following:

- ☞ These drafts are a beginning point. They will change based on reactions to them and may continue to evolve throughout master planning.
- ☞ Review the drafts, edit or rewrite new visions, goals, and criteria if you wish.
- ☞ Feel free to split goals or criteria apart or lump them together.
- ☞ Avoid specific details relating to management or development. Details will be considered when we develop objectives and alternatives, the next phase in the process.
- ☞ **Please let us know why you either favor or disapprove of a goal or criteria, as we need to understand what you like or dislike.**
- ☞ Evaluate whether these visions and goals reflect your ideas about the future of the Lower Wolf River Bottom-

lands.

- ☞ What key ideas have not been included?

And just to review, a vision statement is a concise statement of the project's overall purpose. It is consistent with statutory direction, Natural Resources Board policies, division and program strategic plans and other appropriate guidance. It provides a broad description of the property's character, capacity and opportunities.

Property goals are a series of statements describing desired outcomes or future conditions. They describe how the vision for the project will be accomplished and are expressed in broad, general terms that are timeless, in that there is no specific date by which the goal is to be achieved.

The vision statement and goals form the skeletal framework for the third planning phase -- the development of detailed objectives and alternatives for the property as a whole and for individual management areas within the property.

The criteria for identifying conservation and recreational opportunities within the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands will assist us in establishing, expanding, or designating new DNR project boundaries.

We appreciate the time and hard work all of you are putting into this planning process. It is difficult but, we hope satisfying, to help set the future course for management of these state properties.

Lower Wolf River Bottomlands

Public Working Meeting

Monday, June 19, 2000

5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Ellington Town Hall

**(corner of Hwy. 76 and S
in Stephenville)**

Draft Vision, Goals, and Criteria for Identifying Conservation and Recreation Lands within the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Study Area

Draft Vision:

The Lower Wolf River Bottomlands will be managed recognizing the interconnectedness of air, water, and land in sustaining ecosystems in balance with cultural and economic values. In partnership with citizens as stewards of the natural resources, we work to protect, restore, maintain, and enhance healthy, diverse ecosystems and the natural, scenic beauty of the corridor, while providing compatible recreational pursuits and educational opportunities for current and future generations.

Draft Goals:

The land along the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands is protected through ecologically sound management decisions that reflect long-term considerations for healthy ecosystems.

The Lower Wolf River Bottomlands protects the quality and quantity of surface and groundwater resources.

All citizens share the responsibility for the stewardship of the natural resources in the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands for the benefit of current and future generations.

The public has opportunities to experience a diverse range of compatible outdoor recreational and educational activities that enhance the quality of life and economy within the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands.

Draft - Criteria for Identifying Conservation and Recreation Lands within the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Study Area

Protect the Lower Wolf River and its tributaries river shoreline. The area is seeing increasing pressures for development; citizens feel there is a need to protect the natural, scenic qualities within the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands.

Provide an opportunity for a corridor connection for wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities. Connection between open spaces are important for the biological diversity of many wildlife species and plant and animal communities. Recreational activities can also be provided in the aspect of providing linear trails and increasing the size of properties to allow for more diverse activities.

Provide opportunities for habitat restoration. Maintaining, protecting, and improving the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands wetlands will provide for improved and enhanced water quality, shoreline protection, and wildlife habitat.

Protect areas with endangered and threatened resources. For example, the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands corridor has been identified as the best bottomland hardwoods in WI. This area has a high potential for sensitive bottomland forest and wildlife species as well as many other significant natural features.

Protect undeveloped lakes. There are relatively few undeveloped lakes within the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands, protecting these rare resources will help preserve them for the future.

Include spawning areas for protection and habitat management. The Lower Wolf River provides spawning habitat for walleye and sturgeon, to ensure to future additional lands to buffer and connect existing areas should be considered for a variety of fish species.

Improve the potential for fish and wildlife and other recreational opportunities. For example, expand the boundary along the Lower Wolf River corridor to include other lands because most of the existing wildlife areas are wetland, which limits access. Also, provide for additional shoreland access (i.e. shore fishing opportunities).

Include larger tracts of land that promote ecological and/or recreational opportunities. As demands for land increases for development, recreational pursuits, and wildlife habitat the affordability and availability of larger acreage's decreases. Larger, continuous parcels of land provide for better land management, recreational pursuits, and hunting and trapping opportunities.

Improve boundary definition for better land management and public access. Avoid trespass problems and user confusion about the location of boundary by expanding property boundaries to nearby roads, and establishing a more linear boundary where necessary.

Preserve agricultural land. When agriculture land is included within the boundary; creative options to keep farms in production will be explored. For example, conservation easements or purchase of development rights.

Proposed Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Study Area

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